

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 13134 01 OF 02 081454Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /024 W
-----033213 081456Z /53

P 081533Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4071
VOA MIAMI FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 13134

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FOR: IOP/M
SECSTATE FOR ARA

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT, AUGUST 7, 1977

1. BOGOTA MEETING -- ALL MEXICO CITY WEEKEND
DAILIES ACCORD BOGOTA MEETING OF SIX LATAM LEADERS
HEAVY PLAY.

2. FIVE DAILIES SATURDAY QUOTE PRESIDENT LOPEZ
PORTILLO OF MEXICO PRAISING "PRESIDENT CARTER'S
DISPOSITION TO REACH A NEW CANAL AGREEMENT WITH
PANAMA." MEXICAN PRESIDENT REITERATED, DURING
PRESS CONFERENCE IN BOGOTA, MEXICO'S
SOLIDARITY WITH PANAMANIAN CAUSE," STATING
"PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WOULD BE THE ONES TO DECIDE
WHAT TO DO IN CASE NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED."

3. OTHER NEWS SERVICE STORIES QUOTE VENEZUELAN
PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ SAYING "U.S.-
PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
FOR FUTURE U.S.-LATAM RELATIONS."

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 13134 01 OF 02 081454Z

4. EL HERALDO (CONSERVATIVE) QUOTES PANAMANIAN
AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO EMILIA AROZAMENA
SAYING "PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES FAVORABLE
DISPOSITION OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO REACH A
NEW CANAL TREATY," STRESSING THE AMBASSADOR'S
"CONFIDENCE" THAT THIS WILL SOON TAKE PLACE.

5. EXCELSIOR (NATIONALISTIC) AND EL DIA (MARXIST-ORIENTED) ALSO QUOTE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN "PRAISING PRESIDENT CARTER'S FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TO REACH A NEW AGREEMENT ON ISSUE."

6. EXCELSIOR EDITORIALY SAYS "DISCUSSIONS ON PANAMA CANAL DURING BOGOTA MEETING WILL NOT SOLVE ISSUE WHICH WILL BE FINALLY MADE IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE SIX LATAM NATIONS HAVE NOT STRENGTH ENOUGH TO SWAY BALANCE TO PANAMANIAN SIDE DESPITE THEIR RECOGNITION THAT JUSTICE IS ON PANAMA'S SIDE." EDITORIAL ALSO STRESSES "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GIVEN INDICATIONS HE IS NOT WILLING TO ABANDON TRADITIONAL U.S. ATTITUDE," AND "PERHAPS ALL PRAISING HE HAS RECEIVED DURING MEETING WILL SERVE TO DETERMINE WHERE HE REALLY STANDS ON ISSUE."

7. NOVEDADES (MODERATE) STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF MEETING AND POINTS OUT COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT HAS PRAISED CARTER'S DISPOSITION TO FIND SOLUTION TO ISSUES SIMILAR TO PANAMA CANAL'S.

8. EL DIA COLUMNIST JAVIER LOPEZ MORENO SAYS
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 13134 01 OF 02 081454Z

"PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAVE CARRIED OUT GIANT STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF THEIR RIGHTS DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW CANAL AGREEMENT." WRITER ASSERTS AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN."

10. SUNDAY EL HERALDO EDITORIALY OBSERVES "LATAM LEADERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR PANAMANIAN CAUSE." EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, SAYS "EVEN THOUGH MEETING CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENING OF UNITY AMONG LATAM NATIONS, MEXICO SHOULD GUARD AGAINST INTERVENING IN OTHER NATIONS' DOMESTIC POLICIES."

11. FOUR MAJOR MEXICO CITY DAILIES SUNDAY QUOTE MEXICAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S REMARKS DURING PRESS CONFERENCE IN BOGOTA, SAYING "PANAMA WILL NOT BECOME THE VIETNAM OF LATIN AMERICA," DENYING "PURPOSE MEETING WAS TO FORM A BLOCK OF LATAM NATIONS AGAINST POWERFUL

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 13134 02 OF 02 081455Z
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P 081533Z AUG 77
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 13134

COUNTRIES." KRISTULA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1675935
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORT, AUGUST 7, 1977
TAGS: PBOR, PQ, US, PN, MX
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05cd5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009